

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**  
**Â OF OHIO**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**MONDAY, MAYÂ 22, 2006**

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Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Oregon, Mr. *Blumenauer*,  
for yielding me this time, and to thank Ms. *Ros-Lehtinen*,  
a staunch supporter of human rights, for coauthoring this legislation with our dear, dear and  
respected colleague from the State of California, Congressman TOM LANTOS, who is the once  
and future chair of this committee, I am sure, some day, and to say, as many others have  
stated this evening, we respect your life. Many of us love you and love your family.

Perhaps some of us have a deeper understanding of some of the tribulation that you have  
faced in your own life because our families have faced the same. We had relatives in what is  
now the nation of Ukraine, but in the Soviet Union, our uncles, who were sent to the gulag for  
over 20 years by Joseph Stalin. One died and one survived, miraculously, after 20 bitter years.  
So I think our family shares a deep personal understanding of what despotism and terror is.

I rise this evening because I have to say that this act, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act, I fear  
will result not in less terrorism, but in more. I do not really believe it is in the interest of the  
United States, of Israel or the world to further radicalize elements in the Palestinian population,  
and I do believe this bill will do exactly that.

It is not in the interest of the government of the United States nor Israel nor the world to make  
it impossible for Palestinians to become more educated and to learn how to govern an  
emerging nation. Indeed, if our current policies as a world were so intelligent, they would not  
have yielded a Hamas to the point where it actually won an election and other elements of  
Palestinian society were so crippled and so inept and so disorganized that they were not able  
to govern in a way that an emerging nation state would.

I have asked myself during the gruesome Soviet period, what glimmers did we have, what connections did we have, what elements were we able to nurture that even provided a road forward?

I think of our family's East European heritage in Poland and enduring the most repressive times in Poland. This country found a way to support a non-governmental organization in the form of Solidarity, and there were church groups working and there were other groups that provided just small glimmers of light.

I remember a dear, dear friend, Reverend Martin Hernati born in the homeland of Congressman *Lantos*, who said to me, "MARCY, I am walking through a tunnel. It is very dark in the tunnel and I see no light at the end of the tunnel, but I must keep walking."

I remember Cardinal Mindszenty in the nation of Hungary, locked up in the U.S. embassy for many years, as a single man, a single individual, as a symbol to the West.

I thought about the "Refuseniks" in the Soviet Union, how we connected with them, helping them to publish their works, helping to hear a voice from inside a closed society, and I asked myself, in this situation, what are the parallels? What are the parallels?

In this bill, no one wants to support Hamas. All we are asking for is the right to amend this bill to find other non-governmental groups that we can help to support, to help educate, to help inform, to help teach, in the hope, even though we are all walking through the tunnel and we see no light at the end of the tunnel, that we give the ordinary person, the moderate, and there are some moderates, some hope, some ability to connect.

I read from the statement of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, who say in opposition to the current form of this bill, "A further deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation of the Palestinian people compromises human dignity and serves the long-term interests neither of Palestinians nor of Israelis who long for a just peace."

“Non-governmental organizations have a long history of helping the world's most vulnerable people. Their humanitarian role should be respected. While this work is not easy," and surely the gentleman from California knows it is not easy, surely the gentlelady from Florida knows it is not easy, "it is essential. It deserves Congress' continued support."

I would hope that with the Prime Minister of Israel coming here this week, that we would have a proposal that would take the Quartet and actually somehow have discussions, even a resolution, to try to restart the failed peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Wouldn't that be a great moment? Wouldn't it be worth being here and serving here? We need resolutions that will not radicalize, that will not divide, that will make peace possible.